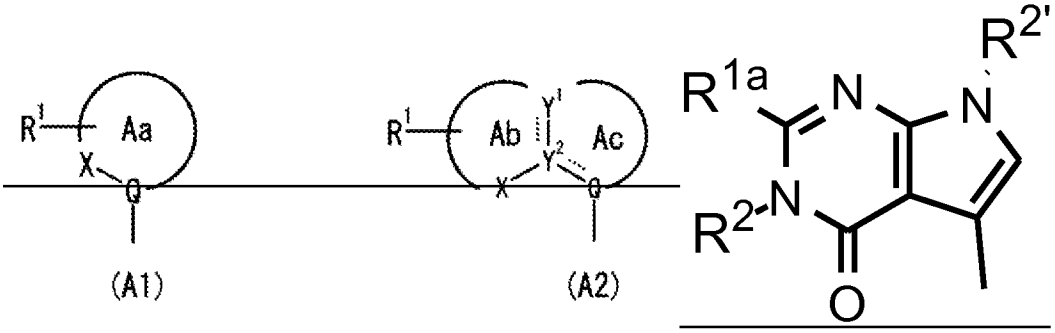
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A compound represented by the formula:

A—W—Ar (I)

wherein, A is a group represented by the formula ~~(A1) or (A2)~~:



~~wherein, ring Aa is a 5- or 6- membered ring which may have one or two further heteroatoms selected from oxygen, sulfur and nitrogen at a position other than Q and X, and may be further substituted with one or more substituents in addition to R^+;~~

~~ring Ab is a 5- or 6- membered ring which may have one or two further heteroatoms selected from oxygen, sulfur and nitrogen at a position other than Y^1, Y^2 and X, and may be further substituted with one or more substituents in addition to R^+;~~

~~ring Ac is a 5- or 6- membered ring which may have one or two further heteroatoms selected from oxygen, sulfur and nitrogen at a position other than Y^1, Y^2 and Q, and may be substituted with one or more substituents;~~

~~R^+ is an optionally substituted hydrocarbyl, a substituted amino, an optionally substituted cyclic amino, a substituted hydroxy, a substituted sulfanyl, an optionally substituted sulfinyl, or an optionally substituted sulfonyl;~~

~~X is carbonyl, -O-, -S-, -SO-, or $-SO_2-$;~~

~~Y^1, Y^2 and Q are independently optionally substituted carbon or nitrogen;~~

~~··· is a single or double bond;~~

wherein R^{1a} is

(1) an amino which is mono- or di-substituted with

(i) a C_{1-8} alkyl which may be substituted with a hydroxyl substituted with a C_{1-8} alkyl, a C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, a phenyl, a 4-methylphenyl, a hydroxyl substituted with a phenyl,

a 2-chlorophenyl, a heterocyclic group, a 4-chlorophenyl, a 4-(benzyloxy)phenyl, a 3-methoxyphenyl, a 3-chlorophenyl, a 2'-cyanobiphenyl, a naphthyl, a 2,5-dimethoxyphenyl, a 3-fluoro-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl, an acyl, or an esterified or amidated carboxyl,

(ii) a C_{2-8} alkenyl,

(iii) a C_{1-10} acyl, or

(iv) a C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, or

(2) a cyclic amino;

R^2 is a hydrogen, a C_{1-8} alkyl which may be substituted by a cyano or a phenyl;

$R^{2'}$ is

(1) a hydrogen,

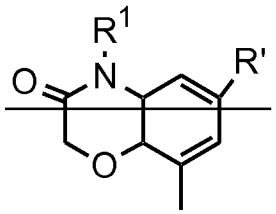
(2) an acetyl, or

(3) a C_{1-8} alkyl which may be substituted with a phenyl, a 4-methoxyphenyl or an acetyl;

W is a bond~~, an optionally substituted methylene, an optionally substituted ethylene, an optionally substituted imino, -O-, -S-, -SO-, or -SO_2-~~;

~~Ar is an optionally substituted aryl or an optionally substituted heteroaryl;~~

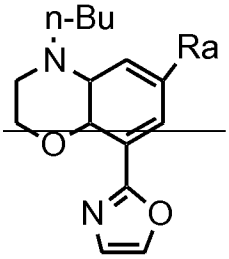
~~provided that when the group represented by the formula (A2) is a group represented by the formula:~~



~~wherein R' is hydrogen, chloro or an optionally substituted alkoxy and R^1 is as defined above; and W is a bond, then Ar is not thiazolyl substituted with one or two substituents or condensed with dihydroimidazole;~~

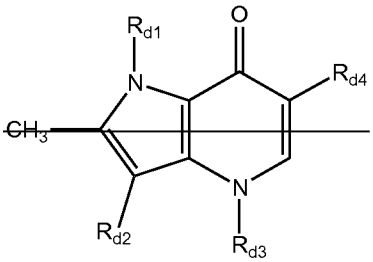
~~and exluding~~ excluding ~~the following compounds:~~

~~(i) a compound represented by the formula:~~



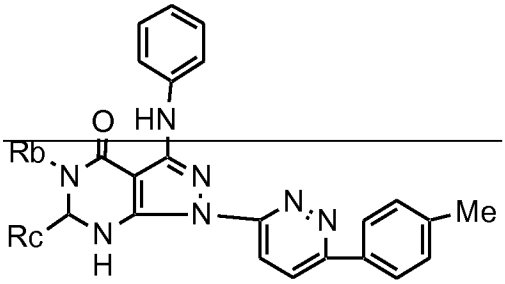
~~wherein Ra is a substituted carbamoyl,~~

~~(ii) a compound represented by the formula:~~



~~wherein R_{d1} and R_{d3} is each hydrocarbyl, R_{d2} and R_{d4} is each carboxy optionally substituted with hydrocarbyl,~~

~~(iii) a compound represented by the formula:~~



~~wherein Rb is hydrogen, amino or phenyl, Rc is C_{1-4} alkyl, a substituted phenyl or an optionally substituted heteroaryl,~~

~~(iv) ethyl 4-(6-chloro-2,2,4-trimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-1,4-benzoxazin-8-yl)-6-propyl-2,4-dihydro-1H-pyrazolo[3,4-b]pyridine-5-carboxylate, 7-methoxy-3-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1-methyl-5-phenylquinolin-4(1H)-one, 8-methoxy-3-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1-methyl-5-phenylquinolin-4(1H)-one, 4-(8-benzyl-4-methyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-1,4-benzoxazin-6-yl)-2,4-dioxobutanoic acid, ethyl 1,7-dimethyl-4-oxo-3,5-diphenyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinazoline-6-carboxylate, 1-cyclobutyl-6,8-difluoro-7-(4-methylpiperazin-1-yl)-4-oxo-5-phenoxy-1,4-dihydroquinoline-3-carboxylic acid, 1-cyclopropyl-7-(2,6-dimethylpyridin-4-yl)-6,8-difluoro-4-oxo-5-(phenylthio)-1,4-dihydroquinoline-3-carboxylic acid, 1-ethyl-8-methoxy-5-phenylquinolin-4(1H)-one, 1-~~

~~cyclopropyl-6,8-difluoro-7-(4-methylpiperazin-1-yl)-4-oxo-5-(phenylthio)-1,4-dihydroquinoline-3-carboxylic acid, 4,6-dimethyl-8-(4-methyl-6-oxo-1,4,5,6-tetrahydropyridazin-3-yl)-2H-1,4-benzoxazin-3(4H)-one, 4,6-dimethyl-8-(6-oxo-1,4,5,6-tetrahydropyridazin-3-yl)-2H-1,4-benzoxazin-3(4H)-one, 2,2,4-trimethyl-8-(6-oxo-1,4,5,6-tetrahydropyridazin-3-yl)-2H-1,4-benzoxazin-3(4H)-one, 8-chloro-1-methyl-4-oxo-5-phenyl-1,4-dihydroquinoline-3-carboxylic acid, 8-[(4,6-dimethoxypyrimidin-2-yl)sulfinyl]-4-methyl-2-phenylphthalazin-1(2H)-one, 3-[(1,5-dimethyl-3-oxo-2-phenyl-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrazol-4-yl)amino]-6-methyl-1,7-dihydro-4H-pyrazolo[3,4-d]pyrimidin-4-one, 6-(4-bromophenyl)-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-5-methyl-7-oxo-6,7-dihydro-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-d]pyrimidine-3-carbonitrile, 3,6-dibenzyl-1-cyclopentyl-1,7-dihydro-4H-pyrazolo[3,4-d]pyrimidin-4-one, methyl (6-tert-butoxy-4-oxo-1,3-diphenyl-1,4-dihydro-5H-pyrazolo[3,4-d]pyrimidin-5-yl)acetate, 1,3,6-trimethyl-5-phenyl-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-d]pyrimidine-2,4(3H,7H)-dione, ethyl 4-({2-[(2,2-dimethylpropanoyl)amino]-6-methyl-4-oxo-4,7-dihydro-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-d]pyrimidin-5-yl}thio)benzoate and methyl 4-{2-[2-amino-7-benzyl-3-(isopropoxymethyl)-4-oxo-4,7-dihydro-3H-pyrrolo[2,3-d]pyrimidin-5-yl]vinyl}benzoate~~; and

Ar is a phenyl which is substituted with

(i) one or more C_{1-8} alkyl which may be substituted with a halogen,

(ii) one or more alkoxy,

(iii) one or more halogen,

(iv) one or more benzyloxy, or

(v) one or more hydroxy;

or a salt thereof.

2-14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) The compound according to claim 1, wherein the compound is ~~3-(2,4-dimethylphenyl)-6-dipropylamino-1,5-dimethyl-1,5-dihydro-4*H*-pyrazolo[3,4-*d*]pyrimidin-4-one,~~

~~5-(2,4-dimethylphenyl)-3-methyl-1-(1-propylbutyl)quinolin-4(1H)-one,~~

~~1-(dipropylamino)-6-mesityl-3-methyl-4H-quinolizin-4-one,~~

2-(dipropylamino)-5-mesityl-3,7-dimethyl-3,7-dihydro-*4H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*d*]pyrimidin-4-one~~,~~

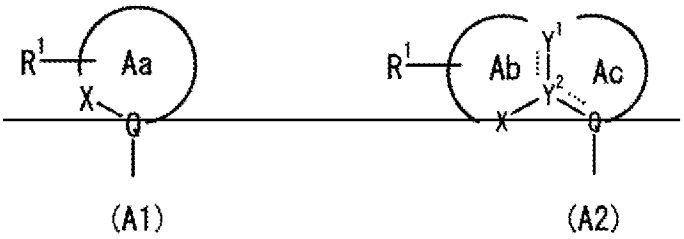
~~1-(2,4-dimethylphenyl)-4-(1-ethylpropoxy)-6-methyl-1,6-dihydro-7*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*d*]pyridazin-7-one,~~

~~5-mesityl-3-methyl-1-(1-propylbutyl)cinnolin-4(*1H*)-one, or 1-(1-ethylpropyl)-4-mesityl-2-methyl-1,2-dihydro-*3H*-indazol-3-one~~.

16. (Currently Amended) A method for treating or preventing a disease wherein a CRF receptor is implicated, which comprises administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of a compound or salt according to claim 1, wherein the disease being treated or prevented is selected from the group consisting of affective disorder, depression and anxiety~~represented by the formula:~~

~~A—W—Ar (I')~~

~~wherein, A is a group represented by the formula (A1) or (A2):~~



(A1) (A2)

~~wherein, ring Aa is a 5- or 6- membered ring which may have one or two further heteroatoms selected from oxygen, sulfur and nitrogen at a position other than Q and X, and may be further substituted with one or more substituents in addition to R^+; ring Ab is a 5- or 6- membered ring which may have one or two further heteroatoms selected from oxygen, sulfur and nitrogen at a position other than Y^1, Y^2 and X, and may be further substituted with one or more substituents in addition to R^+; ring Ac is a 5- or 6- membered ring which may have one or two further heteroatoms selected from oxygen, sulfur and nitrogen at a position other than Y^1, Y^2 and Q, and may be substituted with one or more substituents; R^+ is an optionally substituted alkyl, an optionally substituted cycloalkyl, an optionally substituted cycloalkenyl, a substituted amino, an optionally substituted cyclic amino, a substituted hydroxy, a substituted sulfanyl, an optionally substituted sulfinyl, or an optionally substituted sulfonyl; X is carbonyl, -O-, -S-, -SO-, or -SO_2-; Y^1, Y^2 and Q are independently optionally substituted carbon or nitrogen; ··· is a single or double bond;~~

~~W is a bond, an optionally substituted methylene, an optionally substituted ethylene, an optionally substituted imino, -O-, -S-, -SO-, or -SO_2-;~~
~~Ar is an optionally substituted aryl or an optionally substituted heteroaryl;~~
~~or a salt thereof or a prodrug thereof~~.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently amended) A ~~medicine~~ pharmaceutical composition comprising the compound according to claim 1 or a ~~prodrug~~ salt thereof.

19. (Currently amended) The ~~medicine~~ pharmaceutical composition according to claim 18 which is a corticotropin releasing factor antagonist.

20. (Currently amended) The ~~medicine~~ pharmaceutical composition according to claim 18 which is an agent for treating or preventing affective disorder, depression or anxiety.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (New) The compound according to claim 1, wherein R^{1a} is
(1) an amino which is mono- or di-substituted with
(i) a C_{1-8} alkyl which may be substituted with a methoxy, a cyclopropyl, a phenyl, a 4-methylphenyl, a phenoxy, a 2-chlorophenyl, a pyridyl, a 4-chlorophenyl, a 4-(benzyloxy)phenyl, a 3-methoxyphenyl, a 3-chlorophenyl, a 2'-cyanobiphenyl, a pyrrolyl, a naphthyl, a 2,5-dimethoxyphenyl, a quinolinyl, a 3-fluoro-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl, a benzoyl, an ethoxycarbonyl, or an *N,N*-dimethylcarbamoyl,
(ii) a C_{2-8} alkenyl,
(iii) a C_{1-10} acyl, or
(iv) a C_{3-7} cycloalkyl,
(2) a piperidinyl,
(3) a pyrrolidinyl, or
(4) a morpholinyl.

23. (New) The compound according to claim 1, wherein R^{1a} is an amino which is mono- or di-substituted with a C_{1-8} alkyl.

24. (New) The compound according to claim 1, wherein R^2 is a C_{1-8} alkyl.

25. (New) The compound according to claim 1, wherein $R^{2'}$ is a C_{1-8} alkyl.

26. (New) The compound according to claim 1, wherein Ar is a phenyl which is substituted with one or more C_{1-8} alkyl.

27. (New) The compound according to claim 1, wherein R^{1a} is an amino group which is mono- or di-substituted with a C_{1-8} alkyl;
R^2 is a C_{1-8} alkyl;
$R^{2'}$ is a C_{1-8} alkyl; and
Ar is a phenyl which is substituted with one or more C_{1-8} alkyl.